

Ocean County - Congressman John Adler named Lacey Township High School student, Ashley Mayers, the winner of the 2009 Congressional Art Competition.

"I am proud to share Ashley's painting of a reunited soldier and child with my colleagues in Congress, and the thousands of visitors who come to Washington every day," Congressman Adler said. "Ashley's painting pays tribute to the brave military men and women who serve our country far from their loved ones. We thank our servicemembers and their families for making that sacrifice."

The winning artwork, Coming Home, is an acrylic painting of a soldier and child. Mayer's painting will be prominently displayed with other winning entries from each district across the country for an entire year in the Cannon Tunnel in Washington, D.C. The Cannon Tunnel connects the Cannon House Office Building with the U.S. Capitol and is traveled on a daily basis by Members of Congress, staff members and thousands of visitors.

The nationwide art competition, which is voluntarily sponsored by Members of Congress, provides young student artists an opportunity to showcase their work locally, as well as the chance to be recognized at the national level for their talent and creativity. The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982. Since then, more than 650,000 students have participated in the competition and the works of thousands of young American artists have been showcased in the passageway to the Capitol.

Congressman Adler appeared on Lacey Township School District's television station, WLTS TV21, to announce Ashley as the winner. [Click here to watch the video.](#)